

I support the ban on the use of shock collars. I live in Sweden where the use of shock collars on animals is banned already for being inhumane. I believe companion animals, working animals and farm animals in North America as well as the rest of the world deserve the same humane treatment and respect as the animals that reside in the country I live in.

There is no reliable way of measuring suffering or pain in animals, or humans for that matter. The most reliable way to measure pain and suffering in humans is through verbal communication with the patient. MRI scans of the brain can also shed some light on how others feel. Measuring cortisol levels or stress hormone levels have proven to be an unreliable way to measure pain or suffering, as they are just too unpredictable in studies. For example, in human abuse cases stress levels could either be higher or lower than average and conclude nothing. The same unpredictable results can happen when measuring stress in dogs. Therefore at this point in time there is no reliable way to scientifically deduce the psychological implications caused by being shocked.

'If dogs bite each other shouldn't it be natural for us to emulate them to train them?', one may ask. But it all depends on your morals and ethics, whether inflicting intimidation or pain on an animal is an acceptable behavior. It is part of human behavior in a society to bully, rape and kill each other, but that doesn't make it moral or give one the moral right to do it to other people. Because dogs and wolves bully, fight, and kill each other does not make it acceptable for us to emulate their behavior towards our own dog. Dogs play-fight using their mouths, but that also doesn't give us a right to use shock collars or intimidation to manage or train dogs. Shocking a dog or even jerking a dog on a collar could suppress a behavior from happening, but it can also cause behavioral side effects such as fear, aggression or frustration. Non-violent ways of training dogs exist that don't have the unwanted side effects associated with physical or psychological intimidation. This type of non-violent training is used in modern day zoos and aquariums as well as by many dog behaviorists and trainers successfully all over the world.

There is a myth that all dogs correct each other. There are some dogs that correct other dogs, and other dogs that don't. You can train multi dog households to cohabit the same spaces peacefully and actually enjoy being in each other's presence using Classical Conditioning, instead of letting the dogs bully each other. By training dogs to feel comfortable together, they stop correcting each other.

Shocking a dog's neck or jerking on it does not emulate the biting of another dog physiologically. Many trainers hope to emulate dog corrections to train a dog to stay with them or train new behaviors, but dogs do not bite one another to get the other to stay with them or to train them to offer specific behaviors through out the day. We don't even know if dogs consciously know their actions affect another dog's behavior in the future. There is the possibility that dogs correct each other as a reflex, or simply because it has been reinforced in the past. Also, one should be warned that some dogs will become aggressive when other dogs bite them no matter what the reason. Hence one of my main interests in the ban on shock collars is the safety of human beings, especially

children. Causing pain or startling a dog can in some cases cause the dog to become aggressive.

There are more ethical ways to train animals with less psychological and physical side effects. If shock collars were banned, it wouldn't mean that everyone would stop using harsh methods to train their dogs, but instead that society would be taking a step in protecting the welfare of working and companion animals. Creating laws that protect the humane treatment of animals will in turn create a more humane civil society. Children grow up watching their parent's actions. Let the children grow and watch their society treat animals with respect and kindness. "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." – Mahatma Gandhi

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